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Verbalization of the Lingua-Cultural Concept "Happiness" by Means of Phraseological Units, Sayings and Proverbs in English

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ABSTRACT

The concept "Happiness" can be verbalized by other linguistic units such as phraseological units, sayings and proverbs. The words "Happiness" and "Happy" are emotive words which people feel, think and talk about it. All these phraseological units, sayings and proverbs came into being according to the people's feelings and experience, customs and traditions of one or another country.

KEYWORDS: *happiness, phrases, sayings, proverbs, verbalization, semantic meaning*

Main part

"Happiness is not the satisfaction of whatever irrational wishes you might blindly attempt to enjoy. Happiness is a state of non-contradictory joy - a joy without penalty or guilt... Happiness is possible only to a rational man, the man who desires nothing but rational goals, seeks nothing but rational values, and finds his joy in nothing but rational actions... there are no victims and no conflicts of interest among rational men, men who do not desire the unearned..."[1].

Below we will look through set phrases on "Happiness". In Kunin's "Англо-русский фразеологический словарь" the following set phrases are given:

As happy as a clam – it means one is feeling joy or excitement boundless; at high tide; Very happy and content. [2]

Origin:

Why would clams be happy? It has been suggested that open clams give the appearance of smiling. The derivation is more likely to come from the fuller version of the phrase, now rarely heard - 'as happy as a clam at high water'. Hide tide is when clams are free from the attentions of predators; surely the happiest of times in the bivalve mollusc world. The phrase originated in the north-eastern states of the USA in the early 19th century. The earliest citation that I can find is from a frontier memoir The Harpe's Head - A Legend of Kentucky, 1833:

"It never occurred to him to be discontented... He was as happy as a clam."

The first record that I can find of the 'high water' version is from the Pennsylvania newspaper The Adams Sentinel, August 1844: [3]

"Crispin was soon hammering and whistling away as happy as a clam at high water."

The expression was well-enough known in the USA by the late 1840s for it to have been included in John Russell Bartlett's Dictionary Of Americanisms - A Glossary Words Aid Phrases Usually Regarded As Peculiar To The United States, 1848:

"As happy as a clam at high water," is a very common expression in those parts of the coast of New England where clams are found.

Also in 1848, the Southern Literary Messenger - Richmond, Virginia expressed the opinion that the phrase "is familiar to everyone".

Happy as a king, as the day is long - endlessly happy [4]

Ex: only tip him a nod every now and then when he looks off his paper… and he'll be as a king.

Happy medium a way of doing something which is good because it avoids being extreme (often + between) What you want from a holiday is a happy medium between activity and relaxation. I'm either exercising all the time or I'm doing nothing but I can't seem to find a happy medium.

Sometimes in life, a happy medium can be awfully hard to achieve.

How to Choose a Siding Company by Yodle Local / General interest community

So we believe there is a happy medium above the prices we have seen but certainly below the feverish prices we saw last year where consumers will not be hurt but producers and investors will invest for the capital investments that will be required to bring energy supplies up and to sustain existing supplies as well,' he said.

Oil demand rebound will take time by Saudi Economic Survey

They will look for a happy medium but it will be hard to find the happy medium here," he said, adding that Russia needed to conduct the talks on its own and fast.

Russia talks to partners over disputed WTO bid by AFP / AFP Global Edition.

Noun 1.golden mean - the proportional relation between two divisions of line or two dimension of a plane figure such that short : long :: long : (short + long) golden sectionproportion - the quotient obtained when the magnitude of a part is divided by the magnitude of the whole

2. golden mean - the middle between extremes moderation, moderateness - quality of being moderate and avoiding extremes

Strike a happy medium and hit a happy medium; find a happy mediumto find a compromise position; to arrive at a position halfway between two unacceptable extremes. [5]

Examples:

Ann likes very spicy food, but Bob doesn't care for spicy food at all. We are trying to find a restaurant that strikes a happy medium.

Tom is either very happy or very sad. He can't seem to hit a happy medium.[1]

Happy dispatch 1.harakiri (in Japan, a traditional method of killing yourself by cutting your stomach open with a knife or sword)

2. instantaneous death at capital punishment

Happy family happy family bird

Australian.

1. (Life Sciences & Allied Applications / Animals) another name for grey-crowned babbler

2. (Life Sciences & Allied Applications / Animals) another name for apostle bird

Happy hour

n. A period of time, usually in late afternoon and early evening, during which a bar or lounge features drinks at reduced prices.

Thesaurus Legend: Synonyms Related Words Antonyms Noun1. happy hour - the time of day when a bar sells alcoholic drinks at a reduced price

time of day, hour - clock time; "the hour is getting late"

Happy hunting ground [7]

n. 1. An afterlife conceived as a paradise in which hunting is plentiful and game unlimited.

2. A place or situation of abundant opportunity: a film festival that was a happy hunting ground for producers looking for new talent.[2]

n. 1. (Myth & Legend / Non-European Myth & Legend) (in American Indian legend) the paradise to which a person passes after death

2. a productive or profitable area for a person with a particular interest or requirement jumble sales proved happy hunting grounds in her search for old stone jars.[3]

A happy release death after painful sufferings

Every day we use a lot of idioms in our speech. Idioms have become so well worn that they are also clichés: overused or commonplace expressions. Some idioms are slang. They may be used to create an effect such as shock, irreverence or exaggeration. Here we will see some idioms according to the concept "Happiness" from Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary:

A happy event – the birth of a baby;

A happy medium – something that in the middle between two choices or two ways of doing something

Not a happy bunny (BrE) – (NAmEnot a happy camper) (informal) not pleased about a situation: She wasn't a happy bunny at all.

Many happy returns (of the day) – used to wish somebody a happy and pleasant birthday;

Happy-clappy adj. (BrE, often disapproving) - connected with a Christian group which worships in a very loud and enthusiastic way, showing a lot of feeling.

Happy families n. – a children's card game played with special cards with pictures of family members on them. The aim is to get as many whole families as possible.

Play happy families – to do things that normal happy families do, especially when you want it to appear that your family is happy: I'm not going to play happy families just for the benefit of your parents.

Happy-go-lucky adj. – not caring or worrying about the future: a happy-go-lucky attitude, a happy-go-lucky sort of person.

Happy hour n.- (informal) a time, usually in the early evening, when a pub or a bar sells alcoholic drinks at lower prices than usual.

Also in Webster's Third New International Dictionary the word "Happy" is verbalized by phraseological units in the following way:

HAPPY DUST n, slang: COCAINE; also: HEROIN

HAPPY FAMILY n, Austral: an Australian babbler (genus Pomatostomus) of sociable habits; esp: GRAY-CROWNED BABBLER

HAPPY-GO-LUCKY adj: marked by blithe lack of concern, care, plan, or serious forethought: disposed to accept cheerfully whatever happens: CAREFREE, EASYGOING < on carefully prepared lines rather than as a happy-go-lucky venture – CountyLife>< his amiable but happy-go-lucky house hold – Amer. Guide Series: Fla.> syn. RANDOM

HAPPY HUNTING GROUND n 1: the No. American Indian paradise conceived as a region to which the souls of warriors and hunters pass after death for the purpose of spending a happy hereafter in hunting and feasting.

2: a choice or profitable area of operation or exploitation < the reef limestones … have been the happy hunting ground for fossil collectors – Jour. of Geol.>< a happy hunting ground for crooks of all nationalities – David Masters >< junkyards … have become happy hunting grounds for the man in search of spare parts – G.H. Waltz >

HAPPY JACK n, Austral: Happy Family

HAPPY WARRIOR n [so called fr. the use of the term in character of the Happy Warrior (1807), poem by William Wordsworth 1850 English poet]: one who is undaunted by difficulties: CRUSADER < the happy warrior who … was to fight for all the revolution had stood for – Van Wyck Brooks > [8]

Such kind of expressions are given in The concise OXFORD dictionary of current English:

Happy Birthday, Christmas – express greetings at these times

Happy dispatch

Happy event – birth of child

[1]McGraw-Hill Dictionary of American Idioms and Phrasal Verbs.By The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.© 2002.
[2]The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition copyright by Houghton Mifflin Company.©2000.
[3]Collins English Dictionary – Complete and Unabridged © HarperCollins Publishers 1991, 1994, 1998, 2000, 2003

Happy-go-lucky- taking things cheerfully as they happen

Happy-hunting-ground(s)

Happy land, (esp) heaven

Happy medium – something that achieves satisfactory avoidance of extremes, golden mean

Happy pill – (colloquial) franquillizer

Happy release, (esp) death

Happy returns

Happy ship – ship whose crew work together in harmony, (figuratively) organization whose members do likewise

Happy thought – good idea

Bomb-happy, trigger-happy – exited or dazed or nervous from, behaving irresponsibly over, inclined to use excessively

The synonyms of the phrase “happy-go-lucky” are given in Oxford Thesaurus of English Dictionary in the following way:

Their casual, happy-go-lucky manner.

Synonyms: easy-going, carefree, casual, ree and easy, devil-may-care, blithe nonchalant, insouciant, blasé, unconcerned, untroubled, unworried, light-hearted; heedless, reckless, irresponsible, improvident.

Informal: slap-happy, laid-back.

Opposite: anxious; serious.

Happy-go-lucky - random, haphazard, hit-or-miss, chance, chancy, casual, desultory.[4]

Some more phraseological units are found in internet with meanings and origin of their use.

As happy as a sandboy - very happy and content.

Origin

American readers will probably be more familiar with 'as happy as a clam', which originated in the USA in the 19th century. The Australian version is 'as happy as Larry', which (probably) originated there. Other creatures that are reputedly more than usually happy as larks, dogs with two tails and pigs in shit.

The word 'sandboy' brings to mind images of a child playing on the beach, making sand-castles and the like. In fact, sandboy was the name of those who delivered sand to public houses, theatres and homes in the 18th and 19th centuries. Children were used in that trade, but most sandboys were adults. This use of 'boy' has frequently been used for low-status male workers, as in tea-boy, barrow-boy, house-boy etc.

The use that the sand was put to was as a crude floor covering - a precursor to sawdust in what later became known as 'spit and sawdust' establishments - public spitting wasn't then reviled as it is now.

The earliest printed citation of the phrase that I can find is from Pierce Egan's Real Life in London, 1821:

"...appeared to be as happy as a sand-boy, who had unexpectedly met with good luck in disposing of his hampers full of the above-household commodity. "

Charles Dickens made an oblique reference to the variant form of the phrase, 'as jolly as a sand-boy', in his 1840 novel The Old Curiosity Shop, in which the inn The Jolly Sandboys features. The original printing of the book included etchings, one of which shows the 'sandboys' in party mood. Dickens describes the place like this:

"The Jolly Sandboys was a small road-side inn of pretty ancient date, with a sign, representing three Sandboys increasing their jollity with as many jugs of ale".

Carting sand may have been hard and dusty work, but the sandboys' reputation for happiness seems more straightforward than with clams or 'Larry' - they were often intoxicated. [9]

As happy as Larry - very happy

Origin

Larry - certainly the best known character in the world of similes. The expression he instigated is most likely to be of Australian or New Zealand origin. The earliest printed reference currently known is from the New Zealand writer G. L. Meredith, dating from around 1875:

"We would be as happy as Larry if it were not for the rats".

Almost all the other early citations are from Australia or New Zealand. For example, this from Tom Collins (the pen name of the popular Australian writer Joseph Furphy), in Barrier Truth, 1903:

"Now that the adventure was drawing to an end, I found a peace of mind that all the old fogies on the river couldn't disturb. I was as happy as Larry."

There are two commonly espoused contenders. One is the Australian boxer Larry Foley (1847 - 1917). Foley was a successful pugilist who never lost a fight. He retired at 32 and collected a purse of £1,000 for his final fight. So, we can expect that he was known to be happy with his lot in the 1870s - just when the phrase is first cited.

Conclusion

The words “Happiness” and “Happy” are emotive words which people feel, think and talk about it. All these phraseological units, sayings and proverbs came into being according to the people’s feelings and experience, customs and traditions of one or another country. Happiness is a state of non-contradictory joy - a joy without penalty or guilt... Happiness is possible only to a rational man, the man who desires nothing but rational goals, seeks nothing but rational values, and finds his joy in nothing but rational actions... there are no victims and no conflicts of interest among rational men, men who do not desire the unearned...". "Happiness is not the satisfaction of whatever irrational wishes you might blindly attempt to enjoy.

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